
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, Alaska 99835
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Time: 11:30 a.m.

DEEP INLET TERMINAL HARVEST AREA FISHERIES ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka....The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the following information in cooperation with the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) concerning common property net and troll fisheries in the Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area (THA).

The Alaska Board of Fisheries, during its February 2012 meeting, extended the sunset date of the regulation which modifies the time ratio of gillnet fishing to purse seine fishing time during chum salmon management (beginning on the third Sunday in June) from 2:1 to 1:1, thru the 2014 season. The time ratio of gillnet fishing time to purse seine fishing time during Chinook salmon management (prior to the third Sunday in June) will remain 2:1.

The Deep Inlet THA is scheduled to begin May 27, 2012. This season, NSRAA is projecting a total return of 30,800 Chinook salmon and 730,000 chum salmon to the Medvejie Hatchery and Deep Inlet THA. The cost recovery goal for this season is a range from 70,000–120,000 pounds of chum salmon, and 70,000 chum salmon are needed for broodstock. This season NSRAA does not anticipate closing the Deep Inlet rotational for cost recovery harvest. Deep Inlet THA rotational gear fisheries will begin on Sunday, May 27 with four days of gillnet and two days of seine per week through June 16. Beginning June 17th there will be three days of seine and three days of gillnet each week.

The following rotation schedule will be in effect through September 29, 2012, unless changed by a subsequent announcement:

Seine: The purse seine fishery will be open from 5:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. Sunday and Wednesday of each week from May 27 through June 13, 2012; from 5:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. Sunday, Thursday, and Friday of each week from June 17 through August 10, 2012; from 6:00 a.m. through 9:00 p.m. Sunday, Thursday, and Friday of each week from August 12 through September 6, 2012; and from 6:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. Sunday, Thursday, and Friday of each week from September 8 through September 29, 2012.

Gillnet: The drift gillnet fishery will be open from 5:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week from May 28 through June 15, 2012; from 5:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of each week from June 18 through August 8, 2012; from 6:00 a.m. through 9:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of each week from August 13 through September 4, 2012; and from 6:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of each week from September 9 through September 30, 2012.

Troll: Trolling will be open from 12:01 a.m. through 11:59 p.m. Saturday of each week from June 2 through September 28, 2012.

The Deep Inlet THA is described as follows:

Deep Inlet THA: Deep Inlet, Aleutkina Bay, and contiguous waters south of a line from a point west of Pirates Cove at 56°59.35' N. latitude, 135°22.63' W. longitude to the westernmost tip of Long Island to the easternmost tip of Long Island to the westernmost tip of Emgeten Island to the westernmost tip of Error Island to the westernmost tip of Berry Island to the southernmost tip of Berry Island to the westernmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group to the easternmost tip of the southernmost island in the Kutchuma Island group to the westernmost tip of an unnamed island at 57°00.30' N. latitude, 135°17.67' W. longitude to a point on the southern side of the unnamed island at 57°00.08' N. latitude, 135°16.78' W. longitude and then to a point on the Baranof Island Shore at 56°59.93' N. latitude, 135°16.53' W. longitude with the following restrictions:

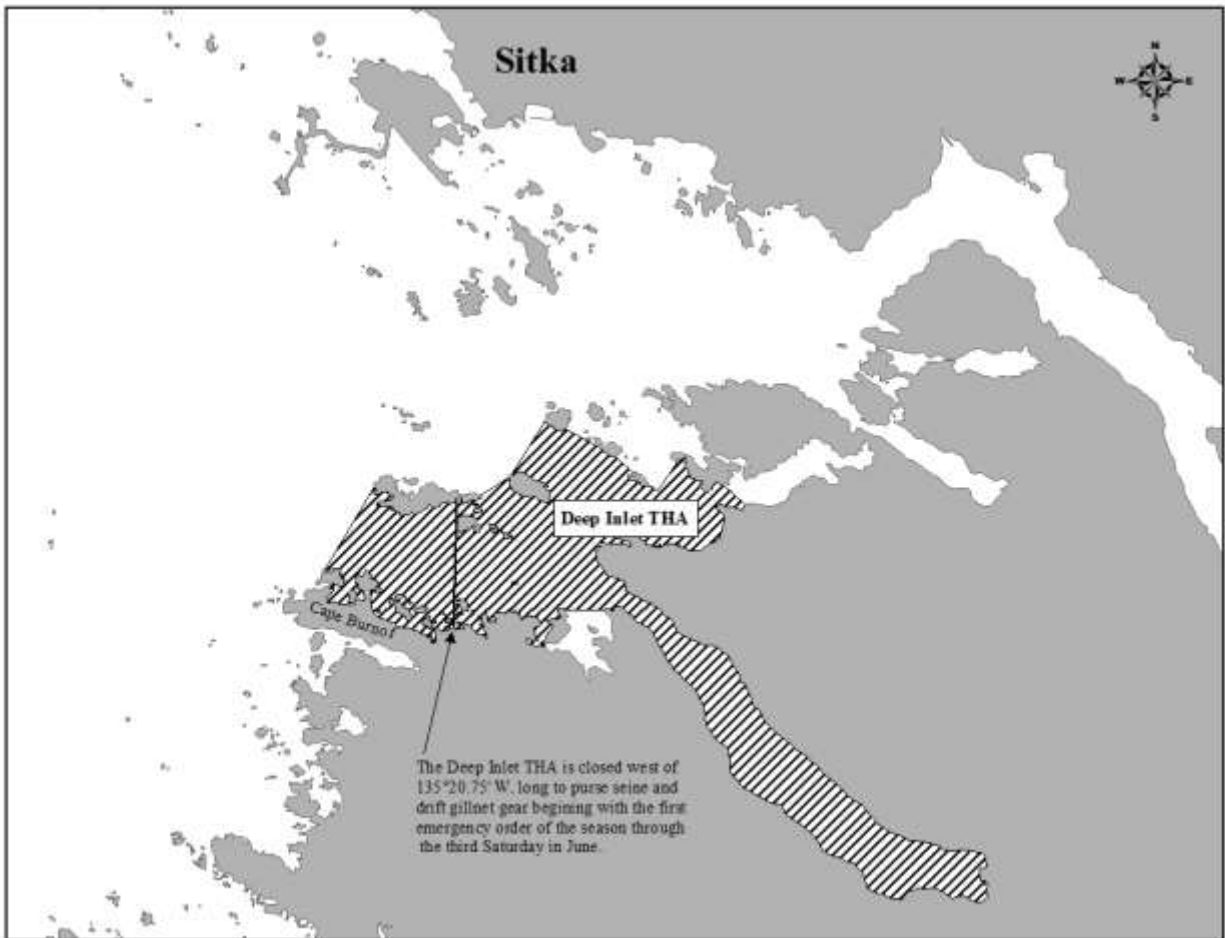
Sandy Cove: all waters will be closed.

The Deep Inlet THA west of 135°20.75' W. longitude will be closed to purse seine and drift gillnet gear beginning with the first emergency order of the season through the third Saturday in June.

By emergency order under 5 AAC 33.376 (b) (4) drift gillnet fishermen will be required to fish with a minimum mesh size of 6 inches prior to June 16. The purpose of the minimum mesh restriction is to reduce the harvest of wild sockeye salmon returning to Silver Bay that are passing through the Deep Inlet THA.

By emergency order, issued under 5 AAC 39.265, harvesters participating in net fisheries in the Deep Inlet THA fishery are required to retain and utilize all salmon harvested during the 2012 season. This action is being taken in order to promote full utilization of salmon, to prevent waste of salmon, to determine harvest patterns of incidentally harvested coho and sockeye salmon, and so the department and NSRAA have full and accurate reporting of returns. This requires that all sockeye and coho salmon caught in the Deep Inlet THA fishery which are retained for personal use and not sold must be reported on fish tickets at the same time other salmon harvested during the opening are off-loaded and recorded on a fish ticket. Fishermen are advised that if they have fish aboard from other openings in addition to the Deep Inlet THA fishery, they should keep them separate for reporting and sampling purposes.

Chinook Salmon Landing Restrictions for the Deep Inlet THA: Purse seine and gillnet fishermen must retain all Chinook salmon harvested in the Deep Inlet THA. Chinook salmon of any size harvested by both purse seine and drift gillnet fishermen may be sold. Troll fishermen may only retain Chinook salmon greater than 28 inches.



The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1E0212.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220
Troll Hotline	225-6870	772-3700		747-8765	465-8765		
Region 1 Seine	747-8522	747-8522		747-8522	747-8522		
Gillnet Hotline	225-6870	772-3700			465-8905	766-2830	